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Dangerous Ages. By ROSE MACAULAY. N. Y., 1921. Pp. 242.

This novel has a unique psychological scope and importance, describing typical women of four generations living together at the ages respectively of just over 20, 43, 63, and 84. The great-grandmother, of the latter age, is made an oracle of sense and discretion in emergencies, but her advice is always resisted. The story opens on the mother, aged 43, who has brought up a son and daughter to maturity and now wants to revert to her medical studies, being discontented with the social and domestic duties she has done so well, and not wishing to be merely a helper to her husband but to have a long-postponed career. She takes up her studies, but finds her mind too stiff as compared with that of her son, and in the sequel, after long delay and a good many episodes, reverts to being a wife and mother. The grandmother, 63, is a no less interesting study. She never had culture aspirations but was a good although bigoted family mother till her husband died and her children married, when she felt aimless, set aside, and finally drifted to psychoanalysis, which has been a fad of both her children and grandchildren, and despite many shocks became devoted to it and was given a new life by it. She collapsed, however, when she could no longer afford her bi-weekly seances with the specialist to whom it was a great satisfaction to her to pour out her soul. The granddaughter painted, wrote poetry, abhorred everything Victorian, faced even the most delicate questions openly and with an almost stunning frankness, and fell in love with a fine young man whom she had won away from her older aunt. She had free-love ideas and waged a very long and persistent argument with the lover against being tied by the marriage bond, yielding to his old-fashioned scruples only when she found she was otherwise certain to lose him. Perhaps most interest centers in the aunt, Nan, a successful novel writer, wonderful swimmer, bicyclist, ultra-emancipated hyper-Freudian.

The moral of the book is that the four principal characters illustrate four very critical stages from which all, after a more or less prolonged period of circummutation, emerge into sanity. The style of the book and the author's interpretation of psychoanalysis are remarkable.

Dream Psychology. By SIGMUND FREUD. N. Y., McCann, 1921. Pp. 237.

The present reviewer of this work finds himself baffled to know who made the book. Freud has so lately published his "General Introduction to Psychoanalysis" that it seems hardly likely he would so soon write another work like this. Moreover, the announcement of the publisher, J. A. McCann, says, "Here is presented to the reading public the gist of Freud's psychology in the master's own words and in a form which shall neither discourage beginners nor appear too elementary to those who are somewhat advanced in psychoanalytic study." In Tridon's colorless and ineffective introduction one finds no light shed upon the subject. The book is certainly not made up warp and woof of quotations, and what the reader will want the publisher to explain is what is meant by the phrase "in Freud's own words." How much, if anything, did Freud have to do with this, and who is responsible for its publication? It is by no means without its use and merits, but it does not strike the present reviewer as being the kind of digest Freud would have made himself, and he thinks that the reader should know Freud's real relation to the work.

The chapter headings are: Dreams have a meaning, The dream mechanism, The dream disguises, Desires, Dream analysis, Sex in dreams, The wish in dreams, The function of the dream, The primary and secondary process—regression, The unconscious and conscious—reality.